

# 40 Years of service to numismatics

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## OBJECTIVES OF NUMISMATICS INTERNATIONAL

Numismatics International is a non-profit educational organization. The Objectives are to encourage and promote the science of numismatics by specializing in areas and nations other than the United States of America; cultivate fraternal relations among collectors and numismatic students; encourage and assist new collectors; foster the interest of youth in numismatics; stimulate and advance affiliations among collectors and kindred organizations; acquire, share, and disseminate knowledge.

**MEMBERSHIP FEES:** Individual & Club Memberships - \$20.00 Annually, Junior Membership (18 years of age and under) - \$15.00 Annually, Senior Membership (70 years of age and older) - \$15.00 annually.

# **INSIDE N.I.**

## **MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

**Applications for Membership:** The following person has applied for membership. If no written objections are received December 1, 2004, the membership will become effective on that date.

**Steven D'Ippohito, P.O. Box 8, Peyton, CO 80831**  
**Collects Russian Imperial Coins (1700-1917)**

## **DONATION REPORT**

**Steven Album - \$200.00 for the book publication fund.**

## **LIBRARIAN'S REPORT**

**I. The following material is new to the Library.**

### **From the Estate of Jack Lewis**

**AA80.HamP:1966:ECCA**  
**HAMLYN, PAUL**  
**A concise guide in color European civic coats of Arms.**  
**Pub1966, 265pp, illus.**

**UA40.CofC:2000:WN**  
**COFFING, COURTNEY L.**  
**A guide & checklist world notgeld 1914-1947**  
**Pub2000, 397pp, illus**

**HA40.HWCA:2003:SABC**  
**HERITAGE WORLD COIN AUCTIONS**  
**The Sid and Alicia Belzberg collection of Canadian coinage.**  
**Pub2003, 294pp, illus.**

**II. In addition to the above we were also please to receive other numismatic items from the Jack Lewis estate.**

James D. Haley, Book Librarian  
Granvyl G. Hulse, Jr., Book Librarian, Emeritus

## **"Money knows a lot" an old Hungarian saying from 1820 Various Facts About Medieval Hungarian Coins and Minting**

**By Dr. Bela Bako    Kapolnasnyek, Hungary**

Those, who do not know in detail the history of eastern and Central Europe, would not even think, that the small, dissected Hungary as it is today was a strong power in the middle ages. The country encompassed the entire Carpathian basin, having unique natural boundaries in mainland Europe. During the reign of our national kings, the Arpad dynasty, the River Inn (now in Eastern Austria) was our border for a long while. Under the reign of our national king, Matyas Hunyadi (also known as Matthias Corvin) /1458-1490/ significant areas belonged to Hungary even outside the Carpathian basin, the number of the population rivaled the population of England in those days. During the reign of Anjou Louis The Great /1342-1382/ the Baltic Sea, the Adriatic Sea and the Black Sea helped mold our borders.



**Matthias Denar**

The Carpathian basin has been the tribal quarters for Hungarians for 1,100 years. During these 11 centuries, in a variably-changing territory and through different, easier and much more difficult CO-dependencies -the country has continuously existed, and sometimes thrived. This is significant, for various reasons, and indicates the willingness and resolve of Hungarians to contend with a citizenry diminished to about 10 million today. Hungarian fortitude can be seen in the fact that even though serving faithfully on the losing sides of both World Wars of the 20th century, and afterwards being "liberated" in WWII by the Soviet Communists, Hungary was forcibly and ruthlessly occupied by their so-called "Liberators from the East" for more than 40 years.

The country had outstanding economic potential. Large mountains, great forests, rich rivers, lots of fish and game, extensive pastures, fertile plow lands and abundant mineral resources. From the view point of coin minting, this last Hungarian treasure is of significant interest.

In our northern mountains and among the mountains of Transylvania in the East, gold, silver, copper and lead could be found in many places. Veins were rich and not too deep under the surface. Mining was relatively easy and the metals mined were truly high quality. Unrefined copper ore was freely exported mainly toward Venice



and Italy. This copper had a more than 10% silver content that was separated at its foreign destinations.

To cultivate the rich quarries in Upper Hungary and in Transylvania, German-originated craftsmen and miners, the Saxons, were moved in by our national kings. The area in the North "Szepesseg" and Saxonland in Transylvania were named after them in the 11th and 12th centuries. The wife of our first king St. Steven /997-1038/ was a Bavarian princess called Gisela; the first goldsmiths and minters came to Hungary in her entourage.

These craftsmen were minting our first coins, primarily following Bavarian techniques. Ancient Hungarian minting technologies were brought from the East; a punch-based system of coinage. Out of 408 grams {one pound} of metal, about 510 Obolus coins were punched. Logograms ("sigla") appeared - these were small quality control symbols. The portrait of the king as a schematic royal head first appears on the coins of our King Solomon /1063-1074/. Mints were established in towns that still exist today - Szekesfehervar, Esztergom, Buda, and in the largest mining cities. The weight of the small, round Hungarian Denars was changed from 0.12 grams to about 0.80. Early on, the country was divided into 10 coin-minting "chambers", each lead by a Chamber Count. The head of the system on a national level was the Chief Chamber Count or Chief Treasurer. The Denar mounts were changed every year, and the size and fineness were changed as well, which lead to a general fall in the value of money in Europe in the early medieval era. Silver mines in Austria providing the basic materials for the Frisaci Denars were finally exhausted. Silver was only available in greater amounts around Czech and in Hungary. While Hungary still had significant amounts of gold, other locations only had the resource available in limited amounts. Trade developed, and a larger denomination coin was sorely needed; the low-valued Denars were not adequate to keep up with growth in the monetary system.

### **The Development of a Hungarian MINT-MARK System**

During the reign of King Charles Robert /1307-1342/ (as a result of long struggles) reforms were introduced in economy, trade, mining and coin minting. A monopoly for precious metals was created and therefore un-refined silver and gold could not be taken out of the country. Chamber Counts and bailiffs began marking coins with their own symbols in an attempt to prevent the interference of others in neighboring territories from making extra profits with unauthorized exchanges.

The first mint marks consisted of letter designations such as: B V - Buda, O F - Offenbanya, C R - Kormocbanya, M M - Felsobanya (Mons Medium), L I -Lippa, Z A - Zatmar. Later on, 'personal' signs became fashionable; for example a Moor's head or "Szerecsen" (in Hungarian) represented the Moor Brothers.

The beginnings of Hungarian GOLD coin minting. From the end of the 8th century, gold coins were no longer minted in Europe, except the Solidus of Byzantium, but even this was minted from gold obtained in African territories. From the 11th century on, there was a constant quality and value decrease in moneys, that eventually lead to the collapse of the Denar system. The desire was great for a long-term viable and stable means of exchange. By this time, there was a reduction of precious metals in the country, however silver and gold still came almost exclusively from Hungary.

King Charles Robert banned the free trade of un-minted "noble" metals, and the gold / silver value ratio was designated as 1:20. In the early 1320s, namely in 1325, gold coin minting started in Hungary. The first mounts followed the Florentine example, which were called so after the picture of the lily on the coins "floreus d'oro", out of which came the Hungarian name "Forint" after a period of time.

### **First Hungarian coins with a DATE**

These were introduced to monetary circulation during the reign of Ladislaus II /1490-1515/. This was the result of a reform process. The tax called in Latin 'lucrum camerae' (interest of the Chamber) was canceled and the practice of minting coinage that required yearly replacement was ceased.



### **Madonna and Child/shield 1519-KG**

Money with consistent value was born. The so-called 'Madonna' coins appeared, and were minted according to a unified consistent standard of coinage. Factually, the first date can be read on the Guldiner and respectively on the half Taller of Ladislaus II, which weighed 14 grams and was minted in 1499 in Kormocbanya--- in current-day Slovakia. On several later Guldiner mints /1506/ the name of Elek Thurso Chief Chamber Count can be found. Denars, Mites, and gold "Forints" minted in the first decade of the 1500s, all come minted with a date. (It should be noted, that the inscription of Hungarian coins from the very first minting before 1848 was in Latin. The first coin with a Hungarian-language inscription was minted during the 1848 fight for Independence from the Austrian Hapsburgs).

I would like to thank Mr. William S. Todd, who is otherwise my son-in-law; without his continuous encouragement this article would not have been penned.

Translated from the Hungarian language by Dr. Hedvig G. Bako, wife of N.I. member William Todd of Budapest, Hungary by way of Dallas, Texas.

## NUESTRA SEÑORA DE LOS DESAMPARADOS (VALENCIA)

*Bob Forrest, Manchester, England, NI #2382*

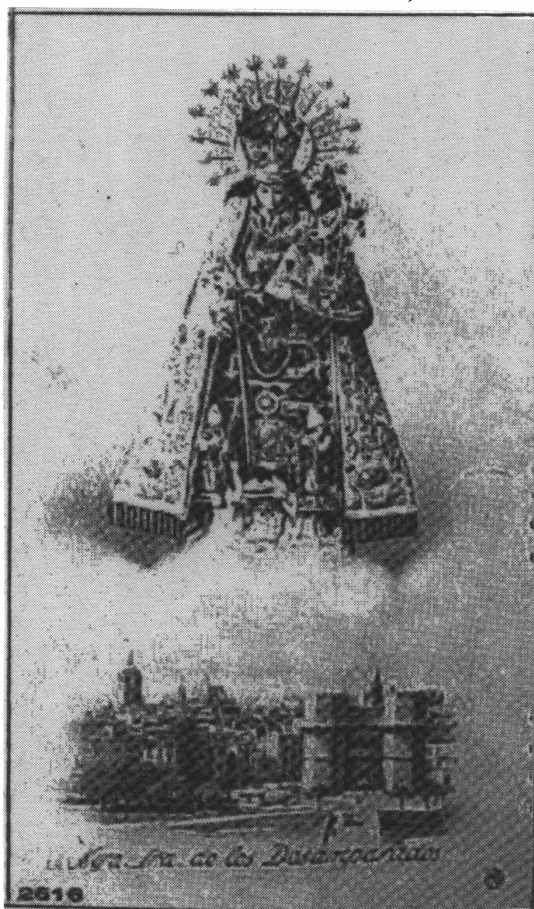


FIG. 1

Said to have been carved in about 1416 by three mysterious sculptors sent from heaven, who subsequently vanished without trace, the four foot tall statue of Nuestra Señora de los Desamparados (= Our Lady of the Forsaken) today stands atop the altar of its own baroque church which adjoins the cathedral of Valencia in Spain. Since 1667 it has been officially recognised as the special patron of that city and its environs. In reality this statue of the Virgin and Child was carved by some mere mortal for "The Brotherhood of Innocent Children and of the Mother of the Forsaken", an order of brothers devoted to the care of abandoned children, the old, and the sick – "the forsaken", in other words. The statue can be seen, hovering protectively over the city of Valencia, in the print reproduced here as Fig.1. Just visible are the lily held by the Virgin in her right hand, and the cross held by the Infant Jesus, who is cradled in her left hand.

A uniface medallion equivalent of Fig. 1, in white metal, is shown 1½ times actual size in Fig. 2. Though Valencia is not named on the medal, its place of origin is made clear by the gates of the city (Las Puertas de Serranos), to the right of the Virgin, and the bell-tower of its Cathedral (el Miquelet), to the left, both features being visible in Fig. 1.

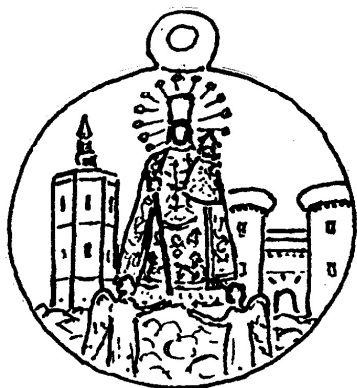


FIG. 2

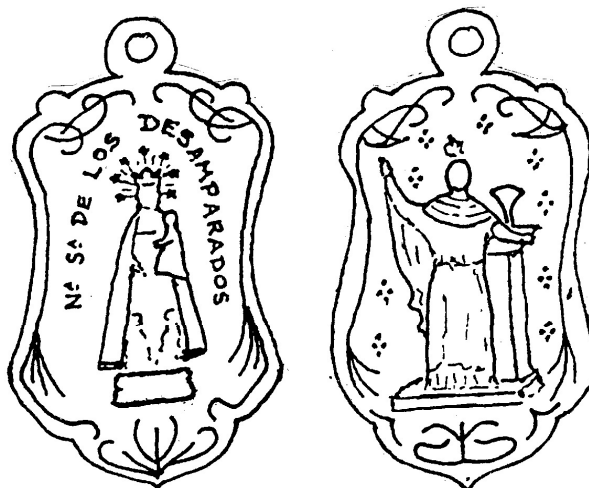


FIG. 3

The early 20<sup>th</sup> century aluminium medal shown 1½ times actual size in Fig. 3 is a typical medal of Valencia. The obverse shows the statue, with the legend NA. SA. DE LOS DESAMPARADOS (on some medals she is named as PROTECTORA DE VALENCIA). The reverse shows St. Vincent Ferrer, holding a book (here resting on a lectern) in his left hand, and pointing to heaven with his right (a characteristic iconographical pose of his). Above his head is a flame indicative of the gift of tongues, and above his left arm is the open end of the trumpet of the Last Judgement – both are characteristic symbols of the saint, who is not specifically named on this medal. (On many medals he is named, of course; on some he is given the wings of an angel; on others he points to a scroll unfurled above his head, and bearing the words TIMETE DEUM – “Fear God”.) St. Vincent was a native of Valencia, born there in about 1350, and is regarded as a patron saint of the city.

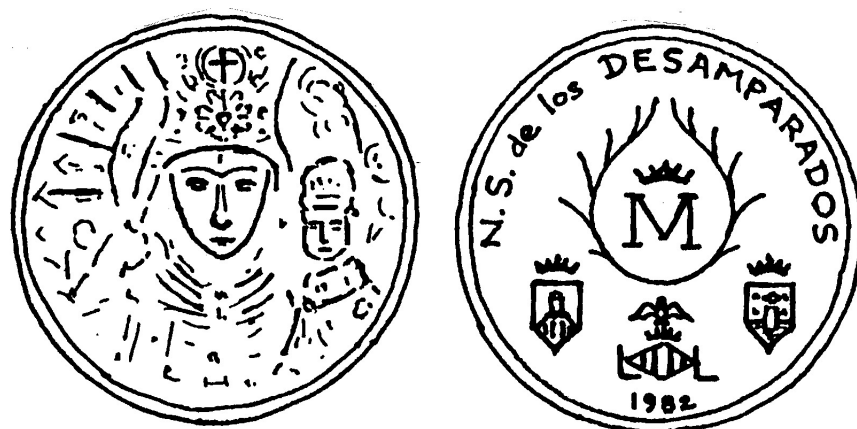


FIG. 4

Of a somewhat different nature is the (presumed) souvenir piece in white metal shown 1½ times actual size in Fig. 4. Its obverse shows, in close up, the statue of Nuestra Señora de los Desamparados, here given somewhat elfin features. The style is modern, but neat. The reverse shows a crowned M for Mary, with legend N.S. de los DESAMPARADOS. Below are three shields – those of the three provinces of the Community of Valencia: Castellón (left), Valencia city (middle) and Alicante (right). Beneath the middle shield is the year of issue, 1982. I have been unable to discover the precise significance of this particular year, but my good friend Juan José Moreno y Casanova suggests that it is the year of the Statute of Autonomy for the region. In other words, this piece is secular rather than sacred: the Virgin here gives a traditional religious gloss to some modern politics.

It is to be noted that there are other images of “Our Lady of the Forsaken” around the Catholic world, notably in Spain and Latin America, so that the use of that epithet on a medal does not necessarily relate it to Valencia. It is the characteristic pose of St. Vincent Ferrer in Fig. 3 and the arms of Valencia in Fig. 4 which serve to relate these particular medals to Valencia itself.

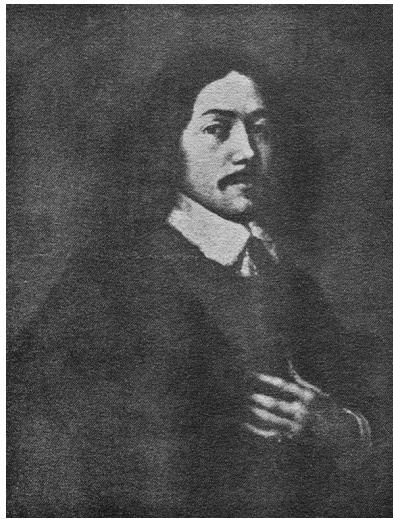
#### Sources.

Donald Attwater, *A Dictionary of Mary* (1956), entry “Forsaken, Mother of the” (p.88); Joan Carroll Cruz, *Miraculous Images of Our Lady* (1993), p.419-421. On St. Vincent Ferrer and his symbols, see “Of Saints and Angels” in *NI Bulletin*.....

## Old Cape Colony by Mrs. Alys Fane Trotter 1903

### Table Bay Settlement

Adderley Street is backed by the imposing wall of Table Mountain, and beneath the town lie the blue waters of the bay. We all know that in 1652 the Dutch East India Company resolved to found a victualling station for their vessels at Table Bay. Then landed the first Commander of the Cape, Johan van Riebeeck and his wife Marie de Querelleri. They established themselves ashore under miserable shelters, and van Riebeeck set his handful of men, Company's sailors and soldiers, to work. The first act was to dig foundations for a wooden fort; the second was characteristically Dutch: they made a canal with sluices, with which a moat round the fort could be filled; the third was to begin the kitchen garden which was before long to be an important influence in the history of the world. Johan, an interesting personality, had already been in Formosa, China, Japan, the West Indies and Greenland. He is said to have been a ship's surgeon. His son, born at the Cape in 1653, rose in 1709 to be Governor-General of the Dutch East Indies. In the year 1657 the entire population of Table Bay was only 134 persons, including the Company's men, a few retired servants of the Company, women and children. There were only eight slaves. In the following year a Dutch slaver, the *Amersfoort*, captured a Portuguese slaver, and brought the survivors of the 236 captives to the Cape...



Commander Johan van Riebeeck

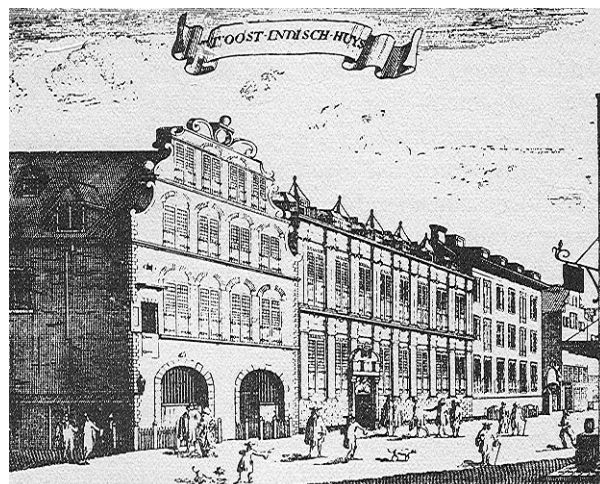


South Africa 1961 - 5 Cents

### Money, Ships and China

Nothing is more strange than the absolute disappearance of things – their apparent annihilation; for if you reflect on it, the words “lost” and “disappeared” have a very limited meaning. Practically not a bit of old Dutch Company's money is found at the Cape. Copper “Company's coins” are to be bought by the handful in bazaars of the coast towns of India, and are sold as scrap metal in Ceylon; but at Cape Town, though no doubt individuals may own a coin or two, not even in the Museum or Archive Office is there a specimen of those, or of the more valuable gold coins sent from Holland. A few of the Company's stations had the right of coinage. The ducatoon was principally put in circulation at Batavia, and was given an artificial value of thirteen escalins (or schillingen of six sous) instead of the usual value of ten and half;

thus the Company made a profit of two and a half escalins or fifteen sous on each ducatoon. Of the copper money, eighty stuivers went to a ducatoon and forty-eight or fifty to a rix dollar. Two rix dollars went to ducat. The gold double ducat was sent from Holland; these were the “Dutch Dubbeltjeers” which the Company’s men made such heroic efforts to save in the many wrecks of the Cape of Storms. Coinage of the East India Company bore the crowned lion of Holland, and on the obverse the V.O.C.: Vereenigde Oost-indische Campagnie (United East India Company) monogram of the Dutch Company. It is easy enough to detect the difference between those minted at home and in the Indies.



**EAST INDIA COMPANY’S HOUSE, AMSTERDAM 1693**

In the early days “reals” seem to have been in use at Table Bay. For instance, in 1659 no one might pass through the pega-pega hedge of the Company’s garden, and the penalty for breaking the law was three years’ hard labour in chains, with a fine of a hundred reals. Later, guilders were in use. Two and a half Dutch gulden were equal to a rix dollar. In addition to other disabilities, the coinage of the settlements was liable to be changed by the Company. In 1706 an order came from Batavia to the Cape to deal no longer in guilders and stuivers but in rix dollars and “eights,” and the price of goods had to be readjusted to meet the alteration. The reward for each lion killed was then fixed at eight rix dollars. I find that Haazendal farm was sold by Haazenwinkel in 1728 to two burghers, Christiaan Rasp and Jacob van Bochem, for 12,050 “even” Cape guilders or sixpences, of which 2,410 sixpences were paid in cash and a mortgage given for the rest. Under Ryk Talbugh, in 1762, the same farm was sold to burgher van As for 13,500 guilders, and in 1831 the father of the present owner bought it for £1,150 or 46,000 guilders. Dollars and guilders were used until well into the nineteenth century, and a French Hoek friend of mine, recalling the old slave sales, remembered his father having paid 200 rix dollars each for two special men about the year 1830.



**Stuiver Piece Coined by the Dutch India Company**



**Gold Double Ducaat**



**Two Stuiver Piece Coined in the East by the Dutch East India Company**

The rate of exchange seems to have varied from time to time. “The silver ducatoon which goes in India for eighty stuivers,” wrote Admiral Stavorinus in 1798, “is only current here for eighty-two rupees, whether of Batavia, Surat or Bengal, ninety for twenty-four stuivers. Coins of Holland have the same currency as at home, except Zeeland rix-dollars, which are only worth fifty stuivers. Sest halves (pieces of five and a half struivers) go for schillings (pieces of six stuivers). As in Batavia accounts are kept here in rix-dollars of forth-eight stuivers. At public sales prices are taken in Cape guilders of sixteen stuivers each.”

How much of this old money is buried in the tons of silting sand at Salt River, who shall say? Almost the worst misfortunes of the early days at Table Bay were the terrible shipping disasters of the unsheltered haven. In the tremendous winter gales the vessels at the roadstead dragged their anchors, and were driven on the rocks or beaten to pieces in the pitiless brakiers of the long sandy stretch beyond the Castle. An evil place to look at, sad and sinister, calling up only too easily the disasters of the past. Of all the shining treasure heaps under the sea, Good Hope has her share. The breakers must still wash up from their oozy bed many a golden piece. Diamonds from the East, once tied in the “little packets” of the dispatches, ebb too and fro, worthless as the most worthless pebble of the shore. Here went down cargoes of tea

and china, silk and linen, teak, ebony and sandal wood, rice and opium and ambergris, and all the spices, the mace, the cloves, the nutmegs, the pepper, which play such a singular, such an almost deadly part; when you think of the lives lost in procuring them, and the old story of trade.

In 1697, in the stormy month of June, three big ships found their doom in Table Bay. The *Swart Leeuw* was smashed in front of the Company's wharf, the *Oosterland* and the *Waddinxveen* broken at Salt River; the cargo scattered and only sixteen saved out of all the crew. In this terrible time Governor, the Secunde Elsevier, Olof Bergh, Captain of the Garrison, with officers, soldiers and slaves, were busy day and night "even with lanterns in rain and wind, diligently and zealously." "Often, says the dispatch, "the Governor stood up to his knees in water to keep things going, and continually had boats afloat in order to dispatch cables and anchors to the return fleet which... were in such great danger." The crew of these three ships were unrecognizable when found, and the money chests and two small bags of diamonds, tied round him by the steward at the last moment – one of these terrible moments of heroism, so futile and pathetic, - were all irretrievably dispersed.

At Robben Island the *Dageraad* was lost with all the money she carried. The broken chests were washed ashore, but the money is still beneath the surf, which hides its treasure for evermore. Then there was the *Craijensteen* with her consignment of money; a large ship which drifted on to the rocks between Hout Bay and Lion's Kloof in a thick mist at the "third glass of the dog watch." And often a mist still hangs about this foaming sea, where the cold Atlantic dashes into spume and spray, as it rolls in from distant Antarctic ice-floes.

Above, between the rocks and the craggy sides of Table Mountain winds the Victoria Road. To drive round it is one of the easiest and most beautiful expeditions. Go on a clear morning in the early spring of the Cape. The slopes are jeweled by thousands of flowers; the lizards, grey "kokelmannetje," the little cooking man, the blue blinking Agora, have hardly yet crept out to bask in the sun. The twelve gray crags, called the Apostles, rear their heads into a pale cloudless sky.

Yet with all its peaceful beauty it is not difficult to imagine down by these rocks the great ships with its twisted masts and spars, and to hear the cries of the sailors as the wreck was whirled around and around in the boiling sea and finally thrown slanting with its bows on the rocks, stern under water. Fiscal blesius and Secunde Elsevier were at the place as soon as news reached headquarters, but the saloon was submerged; three money chests and most of the cargo lost. The Governor found the track almost impassable and inaccessible both by foot and on horseback; and seems to have contented himself by writing voluminous letters addressed "To the Commissioners watching the *Creijensteen* behind the Kloof of the Lion "; but the men were saved, and returned exhausted but with sixteen cases of the treasure.

That the service of the Honorable Company was attended with risks none knew better than the van der Stels. Perhaps it was because so many men he knew and cared for were in its employ, that old Simon took infinite pains to improve their case. He not only replaced the old hospital along the unhealthy beach by the new one near the Company's garden, but wrote long letters explaining that want of food and clothing



caused much of the mortality. "They lose heart through want of nourishment," he says, "and all germs of strength failing them, they die." They did indeed die in appalling numbers, and war could have had few terrors for men whose daily life was carried on under such fearful conditions. One fleet of ten ships came in with two hundred and twenty-eight dead and six hundred and seventy-eight sick and very miserable persons. An English fleet arrived with one hundred and twenty-one dead and one hundred and eighteen sick, the commander himself so ill and lame that he had to be carried ashore to lodge at the house of the Chief Merchant. Simon recommended for use aboard and as a remedy for illness, a meal of barley, plums, raisins and currants boiled, with "a good dash of rum, or some Spanish wine."

The old Governor himself had a son, Cornelis, who set sail on the *Ridderschap* and never returned. A frigate was sent in 1666 to inquire for the missing ship and to get slaves at Madagascar. It returned with a hundred and nineteen slaves, "dearer than they were formerly," but with no news of Cornelis van der Stel. Two years afterwards a small slave boy, bought at the Cape off The *Swift*, a suspicious enough English ship which "bristled with Lion dollars and Mexican dollars." And was going from Madagascar to New York with slaves, gave an account of a large three-master thrown ashore at Amosse, on which he saw two persons answering to the missing Cornelis and little slave Damon. But the commander had no means of sending to the rescue, and when at last he was able to put off a search party, it returned, with a large number of slaves indeed, but without news of the wrecked vessel.

Many a good gold piece lies in Saldanah Bay. In 1702 a great ship, the *Merestein*, loaded with money, was dashed to bits in fourteen fathoms of water off Jetten Island, trying to make the Bay. Commissioners went out with mate; carefully examined the place and meditated on means to recover the chests, they found it would be impossible because of the surf, equally violent whether the wind blew or there was a dead calm. But one of the most terrible shipping tragedies at Good Hope was some years later in 1722, on May 16, when "the sea," says the journal, "was running mountains high." All the vessels in the Bay parted anchor, and one after the other drifted on the rocks and sand between the jetty of the Castle and the mouth of Salt River. Morning light showed the shore strewn with dead sailors; over six hundred men, English and Dutch, had perished. An opening called Rogge Bay was then completely filled up and obliterated by sand. Again, in 1728, was a repetition of the disaster; this time in the Governorship of Gysbert van Noot. A heavy north wind had risen, on the evening of July 1, and the next day at one in the afternoon the ships began to drift. At three o'clock one vessel, the *Haalem*, had stranded near the Castle, a second had struck, a third had drifted towards Salt River. "Then," says the journal, "a red flag was hoisted on the tower of the Castle, and the bell was rung three times to collect all the Company's servants and the burghers under their officers, in order to give orders under these mournful circumstances. All came together, but as nothing remained for the burgers to do they were allowed to retire, and the military took possession of the beach to prevent theft and disorder." Apparently no effort at all was made to save the men; perhaps in those terrific breakers help would have been impossible. Yet there is something horrible in the cynical account, for in the morning a gallows was erected on the beach on which to hang any one who should touch the cargo washed up, and "when all was safe" the Governor appeared on the spot to give orders about the Company's goods. Carried ashore with the bodies of the seventy-

five sailors who manned the ill-fated *Middenoak* were pieces of the money chests in which “Dutch dubbeltjees” were jammed and twisted. The rest lie buried in the sand. A story not unlike this we find in a traveler’s account of fifty years later; then, too, the Company’s officials cared only for the cargo, and the half-drowned sailors were not allowed to use the clothing washed ashore. It is strange that Simon’s Bay was not thought of sooner by the authorities as a winter anchorage. The English pirate ship, the *Great Alexander*, with sixty men and twenty-six guns (she was sighted by burgher Russouw living at Zwaanswyk in the Steenberg), could have told them better. Earlier than this Peter Dunn, the captain had said he found a sounder anchorage in Bay Falso than in Table Bay. But the place was unused for many years later, and the stone pier from which anchors and cables could be conveyed to ships in danger of parting was not put up at Table Bay in 1831, under Sir Lowry Cole.

Fragile and dainty is the only part of the wrecked cargo that comes down to us. China, blue and white cups and flowered dishes, dredged up from the bottom of the sea. Table Bay has yielded lumps embedded in barnacles, hardened sand, and shelly concretions; together with pieces fresh and new looking. From Saldanah Bay quintiles of egg-shell china have been rescued, probably belonging to the Chien Lung between 1736 and 1795. Packed in cases which have long since rotted away, the porcelain lies spread on the soft sandy ocean bed, a silent tea party, as it were, laid out for the ghosts of the dead sailors. Many of the tiny cups without handles are absolutely perfect, though they have lain in the wash of the waves for a hundred and fifty years or more. The ships of the Dutch Company had an enormous trade with the Celestials, not from China itself, but from islands near, to which their traders carried likely wares.

There is rather an indignant entry in one journal of van der Stel’s time to the effect that “no tea and china” have come in the fleet. The household crockery of Good Hope was entirely brought from the East; probably also the metal pots, pans and bowls, for there is a special order for copper bowls from Tutucoryn for use in van der Stel’s hospital. In some dusty vineyard far out in the country, you may unearth great pieces of beautiful blue and white porcelain, hidden there as likely as not after some eighteenth century domestic smash by a frightened slave. We know from the indentures of 1798 how much of this fine stuff was regularly imported. Sent yearly from the East for ordinary use were eighteen thousand five hundred dishes, twenty thousand basins and bowls and twelve thousand cups and saucers. They were all to be of blue and white colour alone. But you can find, too, curious lacquered china, old Chinese figures, and rare jars of pale brown, wonderful in texture and hue. So valuable are these things of art, of restrained beauty of design in a new country, which threatens to become newer and more crude every day, that I think of begging from a more powerful pen than my own a solemn curse to be read over all persons who remove, for payment or otherwise, their neighbours’ old china and export it to Europe.

OLD CAPE COLONY, A Chronicle of Her Men and Houses From 1652 to 1806 By  
MRS. A. F. TROTTER, SELWYN & BLOUNT LTD. PUBLISHERS 6 DUKE St.  
ADELPHI, LONDON W.C.2 August, 1903  
South Africa 1961 5¢ 18mm silver – deWardt Collection  
Edited and submitted by Roger deWardt Lane, Hollywood, Florida

# ON A UNIQUE ISSUE OF DATIA

Jai Prakash Singh

‘A hitherto unknown’ *nazrānā* (presentation) issue of the native State of Datia, M.P., from the collection of Shri Urnashankar Shaw of Calcutta, was recently published by Shri Somnath Basu and Debashish Paul. It is a silver piece weighing 5 tolas - approximately 59 granimes. Its diameter is 46.5 mm and thickness is 3.5 mm. as pointed ~ The coin bears an inscription in Devanagari script of 19th century and Hindi language. It has been deciphered almost correctly by them but its transliteration in English is full of mistakes under the influence of their pronunciation.

The inscription occupies the whole space on both faces of the coin and in our opinion runs from obverse to reverse.<sup>2</sup> The obverse part of the inscription is in verse and the reverse is in prose This *nazrānā* piece is unique, but Basu and Paul failed to realize its uniqueness even though they refer to it as an ‘exceptional piece’, they have not been able to point out what makes it exceptional. The purpose of this short note is to point out its uniqueness.



The legend on the coin reads as follows:

**Obv.** Within an ornamental double circle is a six line inscription - *Samvat mani/ nabha anka<sup>3</sup> sasi mā/raga doja vichitra// Datiādhīpa ravi ku/ la tilaka bhupa/Kam/panīmitra*. A cluster of four dots or petals precede Sa of *Samvat*.

**Rev.** Within an ornamental double circle, as above, a six line inscription *Srī mahā/ rājādhīrāja srī/ mahārājā srī/ rāo/ rājā Vijay Bahā/ dara bahādara<sup>4</sup> jū/ deva//* A cluster of seven dots at the beginning and at the end.

There are two full stops — one on the obverse at the end of the third line, and the other on the reverse after *deva* which is indicated by two vertical lines. The first full stop indicates the close of the date and the first line of the *dohā* whose second line introduces the King of Datiā and then goes on to identify and specify him on the reverse. As there is no full stop after *Kampanīmitra*, the full stop on the reverse after the word *deva* shows that the legend runs from obverse to reverse. Both the inscriptions of the obverse and reverse are thus connected. The obverse legend gives

the year and the date of the issue of the coin of the *Datiādhīpa* (King of Datia) (who was) the foremost among the kings of the Solar family (*ravi kula tilaka*), and a friend of the Company<sup>5</sup> (*Kampanīhitra*) . Reverse legend gives the regal titles<sup>6</sup> and the name of the *Datiādhīpa* referred to on the obverse.

There are two things that make this piece unique. The first is the verse on the obverse and the second is the year and date of its issue in the first line of the verse. The six line obverse legend in verse - *dohā* will normally be correctly written as —

*Sarnvat mani nabha anka sasi māraga doja vichitra/  
Datiādhīpa ravikulatilaka bhūpa kampanīmitra//*

The first line of the *dohā* refers to the date and year of the issue of the *nazrānā* coin. Its first word *sarnvat* means era or year, and the last word *vichitra* not only refers to the peculiar system of dating followed but is also used to rhyme with *mitra*. All other words indicate a number, for instance the word *mani* in the sense of (jewel) *ratna* signifies the numerals 5 and 9.<sup>7</sup> *Nabha*<sup>8</sup> stands for 0, *anka*<sup>9</sup> denotes 9, *sasi* (moon) denotes 1 . Following the rule *ankānām vārnato gatih* (or movement of the numerals (from right) to left), we get 1905/9 (1905 or 1909). This year should be related to *Vikrama Samvat*. Thus, we get (1905/1909 — 57 = ) AD 1848 or AD 1852. There are two more words denoting numerals. These are *māraga* and *doja*.<sup>10</sup> They represent 5 and 2 respectively. Thus, the first three lines of the obverse legend, taken together, refer to the 2nd day, of the fifth month of the year 1905 (AD 1848) of the *Vikrama Samvat* as the date of the issue<sup>11</sup> of the coin concerned.

System of dating followed to date the issue of the *nazrānā* piece makes it unique in the whole range of Indian coinage. Whereas this system of dating<sup>12</sup> was followed practically all over India for dating inscriptions and manuscripts it was not found suitable to date coins as it occupied a lot of precious space than the years expressed in numerals. That is why most coins are dated using numerals and figures. Perhaps this is the only coin in the whole range of Indian coinage dated in the way it is, at least, I am not aware of any other piece dated in this way, and that is what makes it most unique.

This use of the *dohā* given on the coin adds to its uniqueness further.<sup>13</sup> *Dohā* is the most popular metre of medieval Hindi poetry and is not found used on any other coin so far. Thus, the date and the *dohā* make this piece most unique.<sup>14</sup>

Main purpose of the issue of this coin, however, was to stress and publicize the loyalty of the King of Datia, under the garb of friendship, to the East India Company. What was the special reason, if any, to issue this type in 1848, we do not know.

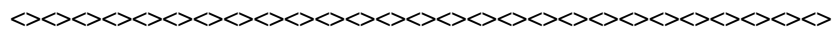
#### **Notes and References**

1 *Mudratativa* (Published on the occasion of the 87th Annual Conference of the Numismatic Society of India, for the Calcutta Coin Society, Kolkata, 2003, Ed. by S. Bandyopadhyay), p. 70.

2 What is being referred to here as obverse and reverse in the opinion of Basu and Paul is reverse and obverse respectively, Ibid, p. 70.

3 Basu and Paul read this word as *Ark* (sic). *Arka* indicates 12.

- 4 The matra or sign of u is not clear on *da* in both the *Bahāduras*. Hence, part of the name and the title *bahādura* are both written as *bahādara*.
- 5 Company is the same as the East India Company.
- 6 The three regal titles Śrī *Mahārājādhirāja*, Śrī *Mahārājā*, and Śrī *Rāo rājā* are practically the same. The first means the great king of Kings, the second ‘the great king’ and the third ‘king of Kings’. All these titles were used by the native kings and their subordinates during the British period. There is some evidence that the title *Rāorājā* was used by Jagirdars in some native states of Rajasthan. Vijay Bahadur seems to have satisfied his ego by using them all at the same time.
- 7 The word *mani* denotes five here and not nine. The word cannot be taken as a mistake for *muni* which signifies seven.
- 8 *Nabha* means sky and denotes zero.
- 9 *Anka* signifies nine. If the word is taken as *arka*, this part of the legend will indicate 1209 which cannot be related to any of the Indian eras unless it is considered as a mistake for 1920 or 1902 which is not likely.
- 10 *Doja* indicates the second *tithi* (date) as *duja* or *duija* etc. of both the fortnights of a month.
- 11 Basu and Paul thought that these coins were struck at the time of the coronation of King Vijay Bahadur. His rule, however, started in 1839 and his coronation must have taken place around that date. cf. *JMC*, Vol. IV, Ed. J. Allan, pp. 293 ff.
- 12 For the equivalence of numerals, figures and words, See Sircar, D.C., *Indian Epigraphy*, pp. 228-33; and Neog, M., *Prachya-Sasanavali* (Gauhati, 1974), pp. 137-38 Intro.
- 13 The line of the kings of Datia was founded by Bhagwandas a scion of the royal family of Orchha in 1735. Orchha kings are known for their patronage to medieval Hindi poets and scholars. It is possible that the kings of Datia too emulated them in this respect.
- 14 In the initial stages of the writing of this paper I discussed the date with my friends Dr. T.P. Verma and Prof. Maheshwari Prasad, Director, Parsvanath Vidyapith, Varanasi. Dr. Verma suggested that it refers to the Vikrama Samvat 1907 (-57 =) AD. 1850. This suggestion, however, is unacceptable, Prof. Maheshwari Prasad provided me Xerox copy of the relevant portion of D.C. Sircars *Indian Epigraphy*. I am extremely thankful to them both, as well as to Dr Sydhir Rai, a post-doctoral fellow at the Vidyapith.



## Scyphate Coins

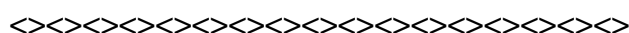
Scyphate or cup-shape coins are usually identified with gold or electrum Byzantine Coins of the 11th and 12th centuries. These make an interesting and delightful addition to any collection of ancient coins. They are usually reasonably priced, and the numismatist will need a few in any historical or type collection.

These coins have been found occasionally with the buried remains of wealthy or politically important individuals, and it has been suggested that two coins were placed over the closed eyes of the corpse before the burial. Some think that the scyphate shape was used because the coin could be more readily minted this way. A cup-shaped die would be engraved with a reverse or plain image, and a weighed amount of gold would be melted and dropped in the cup, and then stamped with the obverse, while the gold was still soft.

When the figure of Christ was placed on the reverse, it is suggested that the shape had some religious Significance. It has been suggested that the coin was used during communion and a few Drops of wine were placed in the “cup”

The scyphate shape is such that it would tend to prevent counterfeiting. It is known that many gold coins have been restruck with a portrait of a different ruler. Since a scyphate shape coin would have the greatest wear on the convex side, and since the concave or obverse is protected, the concave side was used to perpetuate the face name and importance of the emperor or Ruler.

Scyphate coins have a long history and date back to ancient Greece. Skyphos, a Greek word, means a cup or goblet. Scyphate coins were found as early as the second century, B.C., and were coined and used by the Germanic tribes inhabiting what are known as Yugoslavia, Bohemia and Bavaria in the Rhine valley, and even parts of Switzerland. These scyphates were only slightly concave, and had nothing in common with the later Byzantine scyphates of the 11th century, which were purposely made “scyphate”. Submitted by John Vandigriff



## Rulers of The Persian Empire And Notes On The Imperial Persian Coinage

The rulers of the Persian Empire, during whose reigns the Persian Imperial coinage was issued, were the following:

	B.C.
Dareios I., s. of Hystaspes .....	521—486
Xerxes I., s. of Dareios I. ....	486—465
Artaxerxes I. Makrocheir, s. of Xerxes I. ....	465—425
Xerxes II., s. of Artaxerxes I. ....	425
Ochos = Dareios II. Nothos, s. of Artaxerxes I. ....	424—405
Arsakas = Artaxerxes II. Mnemon, s. of Dareios II .....	405—359
Cyrus the Younger, s. of Dareios II. ....	401
Ochos = Artaxerxes III., s. of Artaxerxes II. ....	359—338
Arses, s. of Artaxerxes III .....	338—337
Kodoinannos = Dareios III., s. of Arsanes, s. of Artostes or Ostanes, s. of Dareios II. ....	337—330

The Persian Imperial coinage consisted of gold coins, generally known to the Greeks as Daries (*Δαρείοι στατήρες*), with smaller denominations, and silver coins, generally known as sigloi (*σίγλοι, σίκλοι, σίκλα*, the same word as Hebrew *shekel*), which also had smaller denominations. The word *Δαρείκός* was sometimes also used by the Greeks of the silver coins. The Persian name for the gold coins is not known. the word *Δαρείκός* is a pure Greek formation from the Greek form of the Persian name *Darayavaush*. Submitted by John Vandigriff

## Identifying India Native States Gold Coins

### **ELEPHANT PAGODAS OF ORISSA**

The gold Pagodas of Orissa from c.1200 to c.1400 are among the most attractive of the gold coins of India. They are very distinctive because the obverse is dominated by an elephant, one which is highly decorated and bejeweled, ready to walk in an important procession. You may see these listed in catalogs under Western Ganges, and you may see them referred to as Scroll Coinage of the Governors, which explains the design on the reverse. The type is Friedberg 699.



### **GOLD STATERS OR TANKAS OF THE YADAVAS**

The Yadavas of Devagiri produced some of India's most distinctive gold coins about 700 to 800 years ago. In the reign of Ramachandra, 1270-1311, their gold stater was a very beautiful bowl-shaped coin (it will actually sit on a flat surface and hold liquid). The center of the bowl contains the design of a lotus flower. There are at least two varieties: one containing a small flower with the leaves not attached to the center, and the other having a larger flower and larger leaves which are firmly attached to the center of the flower. The edges are scalloped, and the designs on the edges differ somewhat in the varieties. The reverses are blank. These are truly lovely and unusual pieces.



Friedberg gives the location for the coins just simply as South India and says the Tankas were made from about 600 to about 1000. He also calls them "crude concave coins" but gives a value of \$1000 in VF. The earlier pieces perhaps were somewhat crude; but I find the punched coins of Ramachandra to be exquisite, and everyone I have shown them to has raved about them. The coins are not extreme rarities, and you can at times find them at very reasonable prices, far under the \$1000 catalog value.

Submitted by H.L. Ford

## Persis

This semi-independent kingdom on the Persian gulf to the east of Elymais, even though the Parthian king was acknowledged as overlord, struck its own coinage of tetradrachms and drachms in fabric like the Parthian issues but with different types. The coins have inscriptions giving the names of the kings in Aramaic and the earliest coins are attributed to Bagadates I about A.D. 222. The types are the head of the king and a figure of the king before a fire-altar. Later issues become more assimilated to those of the Parthian coins, though other reverses with a triskeles or a star in crescent make their appearance. The Sassanid prince Ardashir of Persis revolted against his Parthian overlord in A.D. 224 and established the new Sassanian kingdom. Submitted by John Vandigriff

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## Modern Coins Missing From Catalogs

One of the things NI would like to do in the next few years is to make a record of world coins that are not listed in the more common catalogs. We will begin with a search for coins minted before the year 2000 but which are not yet in THE STANDARD CATALOG OF WORLD COINS: 1901-PRESENT, published in 2004. We invite the participation of all NI members in this endeavor. If we get enough material--and we should--we will provide a listing of these coins on a page which you can remove from the Bulletin and keep in your files if you wish to. Also, we will let catalogers know of our findings. Please send us your lists, identifying the unlisted coins by country, denomination and date. Other information, such as metallic content, would be helpful if you can provide it.

We will begin this investigation with a silver commemorative crown of 5000 Francs from New Hebrides dated 1979 and issued in conjunction with the Year of the Child coinage from many other countries. After a quarter of a century, how could it not have made its way into standard catalogs?



The obverse has two feathers in the center with native symbols above and at the sides. The reverse legend states in both English and French that the coin commemorates the Year of the Child, and the design shows a native woman holding a baby in her arms. This is a crown-sized coin silver coin, of .925 fineness, according to a notation in the holder, but the coin has the number 1000 on the obverse and that may indicate its purity. Submitted by H.L. Ford



## **SPECIAL ISSUE COINS**

### **Submitted by Stewart Huckaby**

Experienced collectors of U.S. coins are very familiar with the story of the 1943 Cent. This coin was manufactured in immense quantities in zinc-plated steel, yet a few pieces were accidentally minted on old-style bronze planchets. While the odd-looking steel cents can be found for a pittance in any local coin shop, the very rare 1943 copper cent brings high prices in its rare auction appearances.

Needless to say, many people have decided to make their own 1943 copper cents out of coins that were originally minted in 1948, or by copper-plating steel 1943 cents, yet these fakes have no value. Novice collectors will also occasionally ask about copper cents made in different years, not realizing that the copper composition was normal for cents for over 100 years, with the sole exception of 1943. As a result, the 1943 copper cent is the stuff of countless urban legends.

What many collectors might not know is that there is a similar urban legend in Great Britain concerning Two New Pence coins, deriving from a truly rare coin minted in 1983. At Heritage we occasionally get questions about these pieces; however, I once asked a London dealer who had one of these pieces for sale how often he heard questions about these coins, and his response was, "Rather a lot, actually."

When the United Kingdom completed the changeover to the decimal system of coinage in 1971, it was felt necessary to distinguish the new decimal coins from pre-decimal coinage by denominating the newer coins as "New Pence". All UK 50p, 10p, 5p, 2p, 1p, and 1/2p coins dated between 1971 and 1981 were marked in this way. In 1982, the decimal coinage had been around long enough to become familiar, and the word "New" on the coins was replaced by the coin's value, in this case "Two".

Two New Pence coins dated 1971 and from 1975 to 1981 were manufactured in immense quantities and are commonly found in circulation. Those dated from 1972 to 1974 do not circulate, but are common in proof sets made for collectors. Because of large supplies in circulation, the Royal Mint did not feel the need to produce circulating 2p coins in 1983, so all 1983 2p coins were issued to collectors in proof sets and specimen sets. Most such coins were minted with the correct "Two Pence" reverse, but for unknown reasons perhaps 20 or so 1983-dated 2p coins were minted with the older "New Pence" reverse in error. These coins are legitimately rare and valuable, worth perhaps £600 or so retail.

Confusion and the resulting urban legend arise from the fact that only the 1983 2 New Pence coins are rare while the vast majority of 2 New Pence coins are worth only their face value. Coins like the 1983 2p piece that are issued as parts of collector sets rarely make it into circulation, so chances are very small that any random 2p piece found in circulation in the UK will be dated 1983. Any 1983-dated 2p piece found outside a proof set or specimen set would be a nice find. It would be a double stroke of luck to find a 1983-dated 2 New Pence coin in circulation.

Article appears courtesy of [heritagecoins.com](http://heritagecoins.com); originally appeared in June 11, 2004 edition of the Heritage Connections e-newsletter. Slightly edited.

## **New Issues for the Fortieth Anniversary of the Bank of Sierra Leone**

### **Paul Baker**

A page all about the ceremony could be found on the site "The Republic of Sierra Leone State House Online" (at <http://www.statehouse-sl.org>) . The ceremony had been a very high profile event. Those present included the country's president His Excellency President Alhaji Dr. Ahmad Tejan Kabbah and the main speech/address had been given by Dr. James D.Rogers, the Governor of the Bank of Sierra Leone. Further information was to be found on the website of the Bank of Sierra Leone ( at <http://www.bankofsierraleone-centralbank.org> ) which included the whole transcript of the Governor's speech and an image of the design of the Le500 coin.



Le500 Coin

Based on the above sources I now know that the Le500 coin is Sierra Leone's new highest denominated circulation coin and the Le10,000 banknote is their new highest denominated circulation banknote. The Le500 coin is a ringed bi-metallic, furthermore it is a regular decagon and minted by the British Royal Mint. The BRM is known to be amongst very few mints able to produce such multi-sided ringed bi-metallics. The inner of the Le500 coin is Nickel-plated-Steel. The ring is likely Cu76/Zn20/Ni4, one report stated the alloy to be "4% Nickel-Brass" and this is the Nickel-Brass composition that the BRM uses for the ring of the British 2 Pounds coin. The Le500 coin has on its obverse, centrally, the portrait of the former Kissy King "Kai Londo" with the inscription "KAI LONDO 1845-1896" above and "FIVE HUNDRED LEONES" below. The coin has on its reverse, centrally, an image of State House with "REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE" above and "UNITY, FREEDOM JUSTICE" below. Kai Londo and the State House each also appear on Sierra Leone's Le500 banknote. Coins and notes of Le500, will circulate together for a while - presumably for a number of months. Kai Londo is one of the great people of Sierra Leone's past. Other such people appear on the 1996 series of Le10, Le50 and Le100 coins, these can be seen with further information on my page <http://www.wbcc.fsnet.co.uk/af-sie.htm>).

Finally, the speech transcript (and no other source) went further than just saying that Le100 commemorative coins would be issued. There will, in fact, be TWO versions of the Le100 coin. Five-thousand Bronze coins will be issued and will be available at Le25000 each. Ten-thousand Copper-Nickel coins will be issued and will be available at Le20000 each. All of these Le100 coins have been minted by the Pobjoy Mint and they will be available from commercial banks in Sierra Leone. Both versions will have the same main design elements - a portrait of the president, the country's coat of arms and the logo of the Bank of Sierra Leone.

Other coins of Sierra Leone made by the Pobjoy Mint have been denominated in "Dollars". Other commemoratives by made by Pobjoy Mint (except those for Gibraltar and the Isle of Man) have always been in CuNi, Silver and often more expensive alloys. So these Le100 coins are a bit of a change. I will not even assume that they will be the usual "crown-size"! I have never acquired any of the Pobjoy Mint's Copper-Nickel "1 Dollar" coins of Sierra Leone but I will have to try and find these two Le100 pieces.

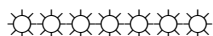


### **EARLY GREEK COINS, A Commentary**

In response to early coins in Greece, a filler (page 185), in the August Bulletin, member Alan Ogden, made the following observation.

There is no clear date for the beginning of coins which were originally lumps of precious metal marked with a punch to save frequent weighing. They replaced a currency of iron or copper spits (like nails) which were called obeloi and six made up a drachma or handful. The coins marked with an ear of barley came a couple of centuries later, and were made in Sicily at Metapontion. This design is sometime inaccurately attributed to Pythagoras.

Other members please note, if you see an error, or would like a comment in regard to articles or fillers, please do so. This is your BULLETIN. Share your observations and knowledge. If you do not wish to write articles for the BULLETIN, then send us fillers and interesting facts.



### **AN ARCHEOLOGICAL DIG IN CENTRAL TEXAS**

By H. L. Ford

We had a very interesting experience at a coin show in early September. A man who came to my table said he was working on an archaeological dig of a Spanish site in Central Texas that was perhaps 450 years old. He showed me a coin that he had found at a depth of eight feet and asked me whether I could attribute it. Luckily, the specimen was nicely enlarged in excellent photos which he had taken of both sides. Almost immediately I could recognize the head of a man in the distinctive Greek style, and a bit later it became clear that the head was attached to the body of a Bull. On the other side I saw a Horse or Horses with a small Chariot behind them. So this was clearly the Man-headed Bull coin made at Gela in Sicily more than 400 years before Christ. The lettering threw both of us for a time because the word was incomplete. We seemed to have B / AE; but when coins wear, parts of letters move together and become distorted. What looked like a B was actually an E, so what we really had was ELAS. The initial letter, a Gamma, was missing. Gamma would have been written as a C in Gela, but pronounced G. The full word would have been spelled Gamma, Epsilon, Lambda, Alpha, Sigma (CELAS), so Gela it was. Perhaps some Old World priest or soldier or administrator came to the New World in the 1500s with a lucky coin in his pocket, one which had possibly been in his family for hundreds of years; and he died with it in Texas, where he and it lay undisturbed for more than four centuries.

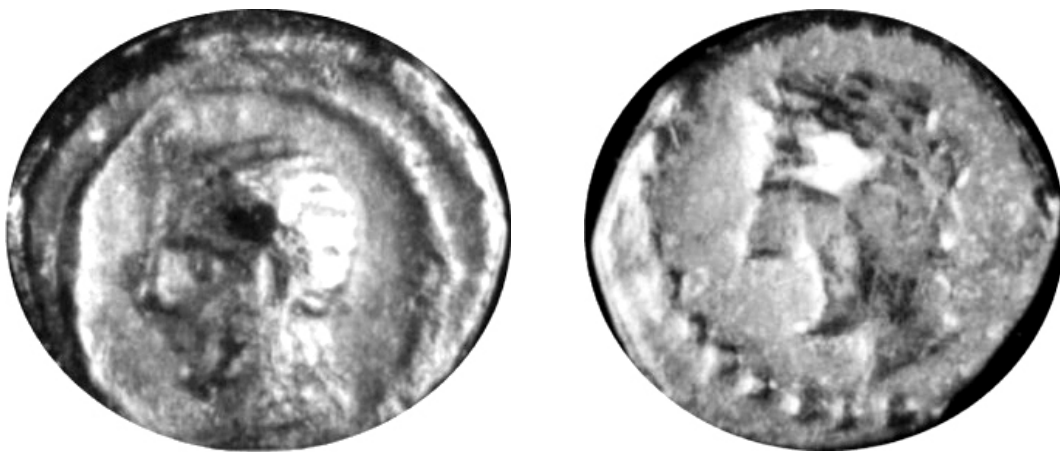
## The World Smallest Coin?

### A Hemitetartemorion

Collectors of Greek coins will certainly remember Hyla A. Troxell's article "Carians in Miniature", published 1984, which ends with the following addendum:

"As this article was in press, the American Numismatic Society acquired the most miniature Carian of them all: a coin weighing 0,12 g, with the types and fabric of 9B, but anepigraphic. This evident hemitetartemorion provides a third denomination for the above associated issues 9 and 10."

This exhibit displays another Hemitetartemorion (No. 861 ex auction Peus, Nov. 1988) with a different design (head of Aphrodite/head of Apollo), different origin (Patara?) and a lower weight (0,055 g).



(Enlarged for details)

So far silver coins of such low denominations have only been confirmed for the light "Persian" weight standard, as used in southern Asia Minor (Caria, Lycia, Cilicia) in the early years of the 4th century B.C. (H. Troxell, 1984).

Usually, these low denominations were coined in bronze, resulting in heavier and larger coins, more suitable for daily use. Silver coins of these miniature dimensions were certainly not easy to handle and are now extremely difficult to find.

According to W. Müsseler the West-Lycian city of Patara, a port at the mouth of the Xanthos river, could be the origin of this Hemitetartemorion. This conclusion is based on the fact that a group of bronze coins (see BMC 19, page 75, 5) attributed to Patara show identical obverse and reverse designs. Even if these bronze coins may come from a somewhat later period, this hemitetartemorion could well be an early predecessor. Submitted by Georg Förster